

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 20-26 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 14 are independent.

Abstract Objection

The abstract is objected to because it exceeds 150 words in length. This objection is respectfully traversed. Applicant has submitted a new abstract which complies with the length requirement as well as the other abstract requirements.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claims are allegedly directed to an abstract idea not tied to a technological art, environment or machine, which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful and tangible result. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action explains that the claims do not positively recite that the claimed method is processed by a computer or a machine to realize its functionality.

In response, all of the claims have been amended to recite a computer-implemented manufacturing quality information database or a computer-implemented method. It is respectfully submitted that the claims, particularly as amended, do indeed recite statutory subject matter and now more positively recite that the claimed database or method is implemented by a computer to realize its

functionality. Furthermore, the invention is far more than an abstract idea and is indeed tied to the technological art of tracking quality information relating to a manufacturing process. Furthermore, the invention produces a concrete, useful and tangible result, that is highly useful in the manufacturing environment in order to track symptoms, defects, and actions. The invention is quite useful in improving the manufacturing process by utilizing the computer-implemented manufacturing quality information database or method of using a quality information database that tracks quality information relating to a manufacturing process.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 102 Fujiwara Rejection

Claims 1-6, 12, 14-19, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujiwara (USP 6,801,822). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the currently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Fujiwara is directed to a production management system that manages the manufacture of color copy machines. Fujiwara's system includes a number of clients that permit various actors in the manufacturing environment to input data regarding the manufacturer.

Although part of Fujiwara's system includes inputting defect information, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a defect category concept. More specifically, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest a defect category data entity for storing

defect categories of the manufacturing process. At best, Fujiwara permits the input of multiple defects, but fails to disclose or suggest categorizing the defects or anything like a defect category entity.

To support this argument, the Examiner is respectfully referred to Figure 14, which is an input screen that permits an operator to input defect information such as a description of the nature of the defect. As shown therein, Fujiwara permits multiple defects to be entered, but fails to disclose or suggest anything like a defect category that categorizes defects having a common attribute or otherwise sharing something in common so as to permit a rational or logical categorization. Fujiwara is solely limited to inputting multiple defects and has no such categorization concept.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the defect category data entity which is a feature certainly not found or suggested by Fujiwara. Likewise, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite storing defect categories of the manufacturing process in a defect category data entity. These features are simply not found or suggested by Fujiwara.

Fujiwara also does not disclose or suggest associating a defect data entity with a defect category data entity. This is now recited in claim 1 as the defect data entity being associated with the defect category data entity. Clearly, the defect data entity and the defect category data entity are separate entities having a logical association that is now explicitly recited in independent claim 1. This feature is also not found or suggested by Fujiwara.

Likewise, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest further amendments to claim 14 that specify associating the defect data entity with the defect category data entity.

The Office Action attempts to address the defect category data entity and its association with the defect data entity when rejecting claims 6 and 19. According to the Office Action, because Fujiwara stores different kinds of defects, Fujiwara somehow suggests defect categorization, a defect category data entity, and its association with a defect data entity. This is simply not the case. Storing a plurality of different defects in no way discloses or suggests defect categorization, particularly as recited in the amended independent claims.

The Examiner is also respectfully reminded that the claimed process data entity (see dependent claims such as claim 2) is a separate and distinct data entity that stores identities of the manufacturing process and is quite different than the defect data entity and defect category data entity.

For all of the above reasons, taken alone or in combination, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) Fujiwara rejection.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Morioka (USP 6,611,728). Claims 8, 9, 13, 21-22, and 26 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Fujiwara. These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

First of all, the extension of Fujiwara under § 103 is only made with respect to certain dependent claim features, such as the action category data entity, defect/action frequency data entity. These features are not relied upon at this time to establish patentability. Furthermore, the arguments against Fujiwara regarding the independent claims are argued both in terms of anticipation and obviousness. Thus, even if Fujiwara is applied under § 103 to reject the defect category data entity and its logical association with the defect data entity, any such extension thereof is fully addressed by the arguments and amendments above. In other words, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest under § 102 or § 103 information sufficient to reject the defect category data entity as it is now recited in the independent claims 1 and 14.

Furthermore, the addition of Morioka does not remedy any of the noted deficiencies in Fujiwara. Indeed, Morioka is merely applied to teach the features of dependent claims 7 and 20 relating to the symptom/defect frequency data entity. These features are not relied upon to establish patentability at this time. Furthermore, Morioka certainly does not disclose or suggest the features of the amended independent claims 1 and 14, particularly the defect category data entity and its logical association with the defect data entity as claimed.

Therefore, the combination of Fujiwara and Morioka fails to disclose or suggest the features of the independent claims.

For all of the above reasons, taken alone or in combination, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections.

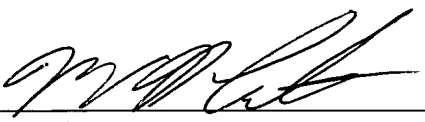
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Abstract